

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (original) A method of forming a slit-to-order
2 relatively narrow pressure-sensitive adhesive tape or
3 tapes from an inventory including a relatively wide
4 roll of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape stock
5 comprising a substrate coated with a layer of pressure-
6 sensitive adhesive, the method comprising the steps of
7 unwinding the relatively wide roll of pressure-
8 sensitive adhesive tape stock, combining adhesive-
9 inhibiting masking with the adhesive of said unwound
10 stock along a continuous machine-direction line or
11 lines at an intermediate point or points across the
12 width of the unwound stock, and slitting said
13 substrate, adhesive layer and masking along said line
14 or lines to form at least one slit tape narrower in
15 width than said roll of tape stock.

1 2. (original) A method of manufacturing self-
2 wound pressure-sensitive-adhesive transfer tapes
3 comprising combining release means with the first and
4 second faces of a substrate with the second face having
5 the easier release, combining a layer of pressure-

6 sensitive adhesive with the first face of said
7 substrate, combining adhesive-inhibiting masking with
8 said adhesive along a continuous machine-direction line
9 or lines, and slitting said substrate, adhesive layer
10 and masking along said line or lines to form at least
11 one slit tape having an edge thickness substantially
12 equal to the average thickness of the tape across its
13 width.

1 3. (currently amended) A method as in ~~the~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 2 in which at least two slit tapes are
3 formed in said slitting step, and including the steps
4 of winding the slit tapes into slit rolls, and
5 subsequently unwinding at least one of said slit rolls,
6 combining additional adhesive-inhibiting masking with
7 the adhesive of said slit roll along a continuous
8 machine-direction line or lines at an intermediate
9 point or points across the width of the slit roll, and
10 slitting said substrate, adhesive layer and masking
11 along said line or lines to form at least one
12 additional slit tape narrower than the tape forming
13 said slit roll.

1 4. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing
2 pressure-sensitive tape comprising the steps of feeding

3 a substrate along a manufacturing line, combining a
4 layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive with a first face
5 of said substrate, printing said layer of pressure-
6 sensitive adhesive with a patterned adhesive-inhibiting
7 masking to define a masking pattern comprising at least
8 one continuous line, slitting through said substrate,
9 adhesive layer and masking along said at least one
10 continuous line defined by said pattern coating to form
11 a slit tape having an edge thickness substantially
12 equal to the average thickness of the tape across its
13 width, and further processing said slit tape by
14 releasably combining the side of said pressure-
15 sensitive adhesive layer bearing said masking against a
16 second substrate face, said second substrate face
17 comprising the other face of said first-named substrate
18 to thereby produce a self-wound tape, or comprising the
19 face of an additional substrate to thereby produce a
20 multisubstrate tape.

1 5. (currently amended) A method as in ~~the~~
2 ~~preceding~~ claim 4 in which said combining of said
3 pressure-sensitive layer against said second substrate
4 face is preceded by the coating of at least parts of
5 said second substrate face with a release coating.

Claims 6 - 11 (previously cancelled).

1 12. (currently amended) A method of making roll
2 stock comprising the steps of:
3 providing a substrate having a length extending in
4 the machine direction, a width extending in the machine
5 cross direction, and a substrate surface,
6 combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive
7 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
8 having a length extending in the machine direction, a
9 width extending in the machine cross direction
10 substantially equal to the width of said substrate, and
11 an exposed adhesive surface remote of said substrate
12 surface,
13 applying adhesive-inhibiting masking to said
14 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive
15 adhesive layer along a continuous machine-direction
16 line or zone extending across a portion of said width
17 of said exposed adhesive surface to form a nonadhesive
18 line or zone and an adjacent adhesive surface line or
19 zone substantially free of masking,
20 said roll stock having a substantially uniform
21 thickness from edge to edge with said masking having a
22 thickness in the order of microns, and

23 winding said substrate and pattern coated adhesive
24 layer into a roll to form said roll stock.

1 13. (previously added) The method of claim 12,
2 wherein said adhesive-inhibiting masking is applied at
3 a plurality of spaced locations along the width of said
4 exposed adhesive surface to form a corresponding
5 plurality of nonadhesive lines or zones with adjacent
6 adhesive lines or zones.

1 14. (previously added) The method of claim 13,
2 wherein said substrate also includes side edges
3 extending in the machine direction, and said roll stock
4 has an edge thickness substantially equal to the
5 average thickness of the roll stock across its width.

1 15. (previously added) The method of claim 13,
2 wherein said substrate also includes side edges
3 extending in the machine direction, and said adhesive-
4 inhibiting masking is also applied in a continuous line
5 or zone at each of said side edges of said substrate to
6 provide pick-free edges.

1 16. (currently amended) The method of claim 12,
2 ~~wherein said adhesive layer has a width substantially~~

3 ~~equal to the width of said substrate~~ further including
4 the step of slitting along said continuous machine-
5 direction line or zone through said substrate,
6 pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and masking.

1 17. (previously added) The method of claim 16,
2 wherein said adhesive-inhibiting masking is applied at
3 a plurality of spaced locations along the width of said
4 exposed adhesive surface to form a corresponding
5 plurality of nonadhesive lines or zones with adjacent
6 adhesive lines or zones.

1 18. (previously added) The method of claim 12,
2 including the further step of subsequently applying
3 additional adhesive-inhibiting masking to said exposed
4 adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive adhesive
5 layer along a second continuous machine-direction line
6 or zone extending across another portion of said width
7 of said exposed adhesive surface to form a second
8 nonadhesive line or zone spaced from said first
9 mentioned nonadhesive line or zone.

1 19. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 18,~~
2 ~~wherein~~ A method of making roll stock comprising the
3 steps of:

4 providing a substrate having a length extending in
5 the machine direction, a width extending in the machine
6 cross direction, and a substrate surface,
7 combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive
8 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
9 having a length extending in the machine direction, a
10 width extending in the machine cross direction, and an
11 exposed adhesive surface remote of said substrate
12 surface,
13 applying adhesive-inhibiting masking to said
14 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive
15 adhesive layer along a continuous machine-direction
16 line or zone extending across a portion of said width
17 of said exposed adhesive surface to form a nonadhesive
18 line or zone and an adjacent adhesive surface line or
19 zone substantially free of masking,
20 subsequently applying additional adhesive-
21 inhibiting masking to said exposed adhesive surface of
22 said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer along a second
23 continuous machine-direction line or zone extending
24 across another portion of said width of said exposed
25 adhesive surface to form a second nonadhesive line or
26 zone spaced from said first mentioned nonadhesive line
27 or zone,

28 said second nonadhesive line or zone ~~is~~ being
29 sized and positioned in a pattern different from that
30 of said first mentioned nonadhesive line or zone, and
31 winding said substrate and pattern coated adhesive
32 layer into a roll to form said roll stock.

1 20. (currently amended) A method of making an
2 article having adhesive and nonadhesive surface lines
3 or zones comprising the steps of:
4 providing a substrate including a substrate
5 surface,
6 combining said substrate with a pressure-sensitive
7 adhesive layer, said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer
8 having a width, a length and an exposed adhesive
9 surface remote of said substrate surface,
10 applying adhesive-inhibiting masking in a
11 continuous machine-direction line or zone along said
12 exposed adhesive surface of said pressure-sensitive
13 adhesive layer to form said nonadhesive surface line or
14 zone, said nonadhesive line or zone having a width less
15 than said adhesive layer width whereby an adjacent
16 portion of said exposed adhesive surface of said
17 pressure-sensitive adhesive layer forms said adhesive
18 line or zone,

19 subsequently applying additional adhesive-
20 inhibiting masking to said exposed adhesive surface of
21 said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer along a second
22 continuous machine-direction line or zone extending
23 across another portion of said width of said exposed
24 adhesive surface to form a second nonadhesive line or
25 zone spaced from said first mentioned nonadhesive line
26 or zone,
27 said second nonadhesive line or zone being sized
28 and positioned in a pattern different from that of said
29 first mentioned nonadhesive line or zone, and
30 incorporating said pressure-sensitive adhesive
31 layer into said article to provide said article with
32 said adhesive and nonadhesive surface lines or zones.

1 21. (previously added) The method of claim 20,
2 wherein said step of incorporating said pressure-
3 sensitive adhesive layer into said article includes
4 incorporating said substrate and said pressure-
5 sensitive adhesive layer in said article.

1 22. (previously added) The method of claim 20,
2 wherein said step of incorporating said pressure-
3 sensitive adhesive layer into said article includes
4 separating said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer from

5 said substrate and incorporating said pressure-
6 sensitive adhesive layer in said article.